

Testimony Submitted By Suzanne Bates, Policy Director for the Yankee Institute for Public Policy to the Government Administration and Election Committee on HB 6745 and SB 845

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The Yankee Institute for Public Policy is a Connecticut think tank that develops and advances policy solutions to promote a smart, limited government; fairness for taxpayers; and an open road to opportunity for all the people of our state.

The Yankee Institute is opposed to HB 6745. This is not the year to expand the state's public financing system to municipalities. After the 2014 election, many questions were raised about the efficacy of the public financing system for statewide and legislative elections. Even with a robust public financing system in place, outside money played a large role in both statewide and local races. Before expanding to municipalities, we ask you to look at whether it is worth spending the public's tax dollars on a program that currently does not do what it promises to do.

In addition, this is a year when the state is facing a huge budget gap. It is not the year to start a new program, even in an exploratory phase. We ask you to please keep in mind that every new program you add puts further strain on our state's already burdened taxpayers.

The Yankee Institute is in favor of SB 845, for many of the same reasons mentioned above. Senate Bill 845 would allow this and other committees to make better decisions about the bills that come before you.

It would provide you and other state lawmakers with the information you need before making decisions that affect our state's business community, and to hear from business and municipal leaders before you make decisions that affect them. We believe this bill would lead to better decision-making at the state level.

Thank you.